

Web 2.0 Tools for Teaching

Session #1: Establishing a Website

a. Examples:

<http://wordsworthreflections.wordpress.com>



At this website, Year 11 English students recorded their reflections, compositions and analysis of Wordsworth's romantic poetry, using their mobile phones.



The map on the website shows how many people have visited the site, and where from.

The students quickly realized they had a significant audience for their work.

This breathed life into their work. Their motivation soared. Their studies of Wordsworth *mattered* more, because they were in *public* rather than the privacy of the classroom.

<http://frenchonlinelittleprince.wordpress.com>

Un Guide pour "Le Petit Prince"
Un guide pour "Le Petit Prince" par des élèves à Sydney en Australie.

Blog | Bienvenue! | Tables des Matières

Une Nouvelle Histoire: Le Petit Prince Grandit
Publié juillet 19, 2008 Des Nouvelles Histoires | 0 Commentaires

En arrivant sur sa planète le Petit Prince va voir sa fleur. Elle dormait, il la réveille.

-Bonjour, lui dit-il, je suis revenu

La fleur ne le reconnut pas

-Qui êtes-vous et que faites-vous sur la planète de mon prince?

Le jeune prince la regarda longtemps, et elle le reconnut.

-Oh! S'exclama-t-elle, est-ce vraiment mon prince?

-Oui, lui-répondit le jeune prince. La fleur lui sourit.

Contents:

- L'Auteur
- Des Nouvelles Histoires
- Les Personnages
- Les Sommaires

Contents:

- A Propos de l'Auteur
- Chapitre 1
- Chapitre 11
- Chapitre 12
- Chapitre 19
- Chapitre 20
- Chapitre 21
- Chapitre 22
- Chapitre 4
- Chapitre 5
- Chapitre 9

These students of French published their own study guide on the text they were studying, "The Little Prince", including chapter summaries, character profiles, and even alternative endings.

Blog Stats


1,037 hits

Visitors



Again, the website quickly gained visitors. Many students around the world study the same book, and would find this website via a google search.

<http://australianenvironment.wordpress.com>



The Australian Environment
By Year 9 Geography Students in Sydney

Subscribe to feed | Home | About

WELCOME STUDENTS, TEACHERS, VISITORS!
January 5, 2009 in About | by frenchonlinelittleprince | 1 comment

The Australian Environment is a project of Year 9 Geography students. Students are using their mobile phones or cameras to take photographs of **animals, plants or landscape**, and use their phones to talk about their photographs.

VISITORS FROM

Visitor locations

This website was created for a Year 9 Geography class, so students could post photos and descriptions of the Australian environment.

b. Create your own website.

Before we go any further, let's get you up and running with your own, free website.

Go to wordpress.com:



Click on "Sign Up Now!"

Fill out this one-step form and you'll be blogging seconds later!

Username	<input type="text" value="johncitizen5"/>	(Must be at least 4 characters, letters and numbers only.)
Password	<input type="password" value="••••••••••"/>	
Confirm	<input type="password" value="••••••~••••"/>	Passwords must match! Use upper and lower case characters, numbers and symbols like !£\$%^&() in your password. Password Strength: <div><div></div>Strong</div>
Email Address	<input type="text" value="94k6kmZQ8y3s@meltmail.c"/>	(We send important administration notices to this address so triple-check it.)
Legal flotsam	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I have read and agree to the fascinating terms of service.	
	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Gimme a blog! (Like username.wordpress.com) <input type="radio"/> Just a username, please.	
<input type="button" value="Next ->"/>		

Create a username (this can be anything you think of), a password (write it down! Use numbers to make it a 'strong' password), type in your email address.

Put a tick in the terms of service box (have a read).

Tick 'Gimme a blog!'
Click 'Next!'

WordPress.COM

Home Sign Up Features Blog Story Advanced

Blog Domain:
(Your address will be domain.wordpress.com. It must be at least 4 characters, letters and numbers only. It cannot be changed so choose carefully!)

Blog Title:
The blog title can be changed at any time.

Language: What language will you be primarily blogging in?

Privacy: ☒ I would like my blog to appear in search engines like Google and Technorati, and in public listings around WordPress.com.

Signup →

This next screen comes up with an automatic name for your website. In my example here, it is suggesting I call my website

“johncitizen5.wordpress.com”. Johncitizen5 is the username I selected, but I don’t want that to be my website. I suggest you change it to something more meaningful:

Blog Domain:
(Your address will be domain.wordpress.com. It must be at least 4 characters, letters and numbers only. It cannot be changed so choose carefully!)

Blog Title:
The blog title can be changed at any time.

Language: What language will you be primarily blogging in?

Privacy: ☒ I would like my blog to appear in search engines like Google and Technorati, and in public listings around WordPress.com.

Signup →

For instance,, ‘ScienceExperiments’ sounds like a good name to me.

Also, change the ‘Blog Title’ to a short sentence describing the website.

For ‘privacy’, leave the tick in the box. We *want* people to find and visit the site!

Uh oh, I encountered an error: ‘Sorry, that blog already exists!’.

Domain:
Sorry, that blog already exists!
(Your address will be domain.wordpress.com. It must be at least 4 characters, letters and numbers only. It cannot be changed so choose carefully!)

It’s worth thinking hard and finding a short, easy name, but you might have to try a few before you find one that someone else hasn’t already used.

Keep clicking ‘Sign Up’ until you find a name that works.

Check Your Email to Complete Registration

An email has been sent to 94k6kmZQ8y3s@meltmail.com to activate your account. Check your email and click the link in the message. It should arrive within 30 minutes. If you do not activate your account within two days, you will have to sign up again.

Update Your Profile!

If you haven't got your activation email why not update your profile while you wait?

First Name:	<input type="text" value="Steve"/>
Last Name:	<input type="text" value="Collis"/>
About Yourself:	<input type="text" value="High School Teacher at Northern Beaches Christian School, Sydney."/>
<input type="button" value="Save Profile --"/>	

At this point, you get an email sent to you. Before you check your email, type in some information about yourself.

You *can* make up false information to protect your privacy, but I would not see much point in this. I recommend filling in this

screen with meaningful information.

Then, click on 'Save Profile'.

Go to your email. You'll receive this:

Howdy,

Thank you for signing up with WordPress.com. You are one step away from blogging at sciencecrazy.wordpress.com. Please click this link to activate your blog:

<http://wordpress.com/activate/23d4de7a863ac98b>

--The WordPress.com Team

(If clicking the link in this message does not work, copy and paste it into the address bar of your browser.)

Click on the link (or copy and paste it into your web browser).



Your account is now active!

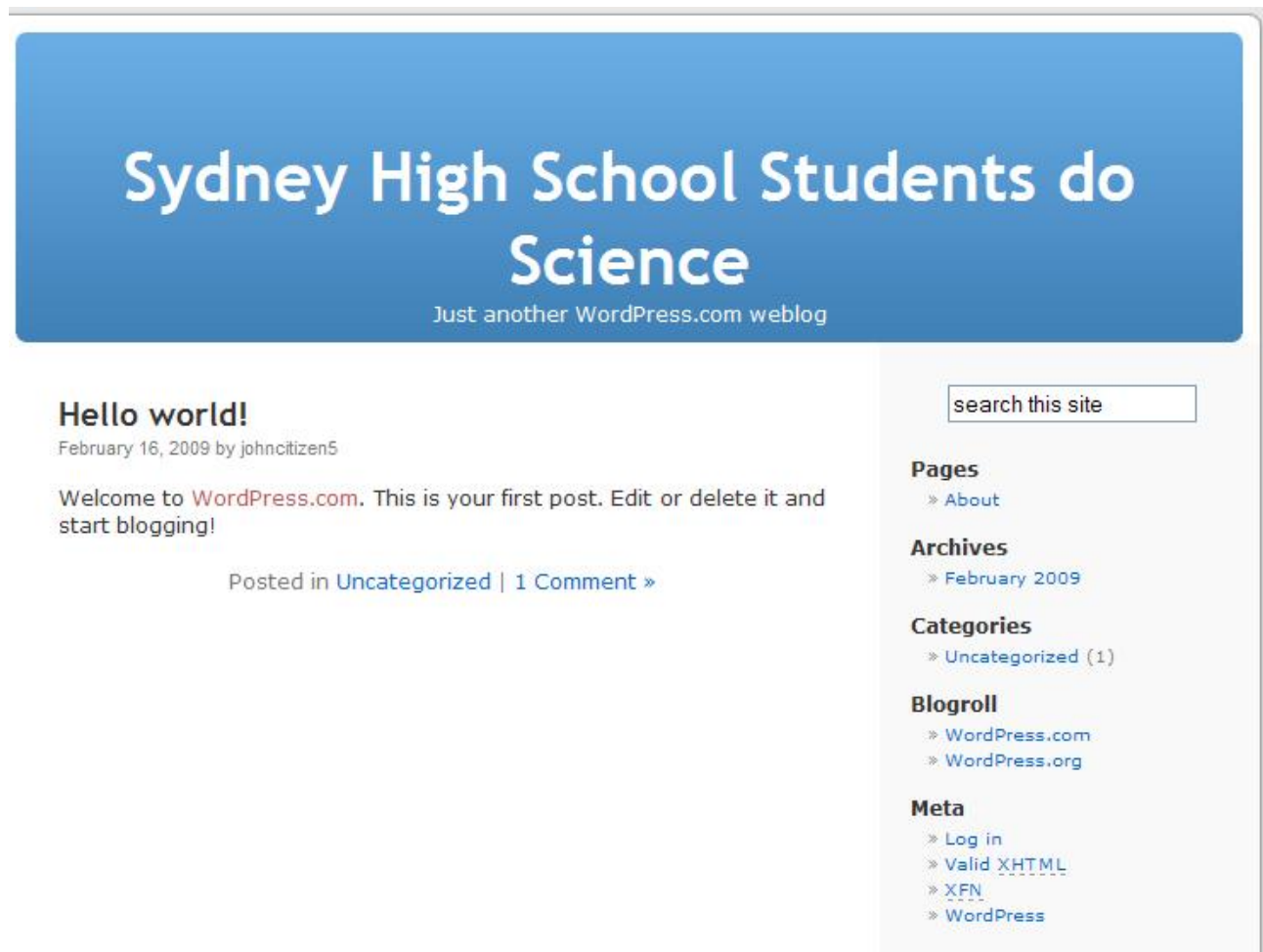
Username: Password:

Your account is now active. [View your site](#) or [Login](#)

This screen appears, confirming your website has now been created!

Click on 'View your site'.

And here you are, a live website over which you have control!



Make a note of the website address. For this site, it is <http://sciencecrazy.wordpress.com>

c. The Possibilities:

The core idea is to publish student work to the web, thereby gaining an audience, broadening their horizons, and contextualizing learning as producing.

This core idea can take various forms, depending on the age of the students, and the class context:

Teacher-Controlled

Only the teacher can edit the web page or publish to the web page. This allows a strict quality-control process before student material is published. Essentially the teacher has to assemble (perhaps correct) and publish the work him/herself. *Our workshop today will focus on this, most easily managed approach.*

Shared

Any student can publish directly to the website. The Wordsworth Reflections website worked in this way. The teacher has to have confidence that the students would post quality material.

Multiple

Each student has their own web site. All the students add links from their website to everyone else's, so it is easy to move from site to site.

This gives students a strong, direct sense of ownership over their site. As with the 'shared' scenario, the teacher does not act as a filter.

(However, for both the 'shared' and 'multiple' set ups, the teacher could simply ask students to get his/her approval before posting work. This way the teacher has control by convention).

d. Parental Permission, Privacy, and Copyright

Let's deal with these one by one:

Parental Permission

It makes good sense to get parental permission for your students' involvement in the website.

Here are some ideas for the wording of your letter:

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I am writing to let you know about an exciting project involving your son/daughter.

The project will involve students posting material to the Internet about the text they will be studying, "A Fortunate Life". I will set up the website for this purpose. Students will put book reviews, creative writing, and other material on the website. Hopefully, students and teachers from around the world will visit the site when they themselves are studying the same book. The project is intended to be a great motivator to the students.

To my mind, three issues need to be considered and managed in regards to this project.

Issue # 1 The students' privacy is at stake, since the Internet is open to anyone in the world.

Management: Students will be anonymous and will be strictly instructed not post personally identifiable information.

Issue #2 Copyright on material created by students cannot be enforced, since online material can easily be copied and copyright undermined, especially when the material is posted to the Internet anonymously, as is the case in this project.

Management: In this project, students will not be publishing any material that is likely to be of commercial worth. If the material the students create is good enough that it is copied by other websites, this will in fact be a great compliment. However, the students' copyright over the material could not be enforced.

Please feel free to contact me on _____ or via email at _____ to discuss further or ask questions.

If you are happy for your child to be involved in the project, please sign and return the permission slip.

I, (name) _____ give my child _____
permission to participate in the project: _____. I have read about and
considered the issues of the student's anonymity and the copyright.

Further comments: _____

Signed: _____ (date _____)

A more generic letter:

Dear Parent,

I am writing to let you know about an exciting project involving your son/daughter.

The project will be run in collaboration with *** for ***, and will involve students ***. It will be beneficial to the students' learning because ***

We have to consider

1. The students' privacy, since the Internet is open to anyone in the world.

Students will be anonymous and will be strictly instructed not to post personally identifiable information.

2. Copyright on material created by students, since online material can easily be copied and copyright undermined, especially when the material is posted to the Internet anonymously, as is the case in this project.

Students and parents need to be aware of the potential for the student work to be appropriated and copied without regard to copyright. Students will not be required to participate in the project without their consent.

3. Technology required by the student.

Students will need **at least** access to a computer with an Internet connection, and **ideally** have regular access to a mobile phone.

Please feel free to contact me on _____ or via email at _____ to discuss further or ask questions.

Privacy

Nothing posted to the Internet is private. Even material posted to password-locked sites could conceivably be accessed and copied. Many students will have already developed a sound instinct regarding privacy online. However, others will be naïve. One of the strengths of this sort of project is that it provides an opportunity to guide the students in internet safety.

Students should agree not to post any private, or personally identifiable information, including images or video of themselves or peers, their email address, real address, phone number, or even their real name.

If students *refer to each other* on the website, or if *they have their own website*, they should use *code names*, or *nick names*. For instance, at <http://wordsworthreflections.wordpress.com> students post their work under nicknames.

However, I suggest it is reasonable and safe to identify which school the students attend. After all, this is good publicity for your school.

You can adapt this online behaviour agreement for your students:

I agree:

- to give my username and password to my teacher.
- to use a nickname for myself and other students online.
- never to publish 'private' information such as my email address, phone number, address, real name, or photos or videos of myself

Examples of what you can and can't post:

(You must speak generally not specifically)

e.g. I go to school. FINE

I go to Northern Beaches Christian School NOT FINE

I am at the shopping centre, about to watch The Hulk FINE

I am at Macquarie Shopping Centre NOT FINE

I am 17 years old. FINE

I live in Australia. FINE

I live in Hornsby. NOT FINE

My email address is. NOT FINE.

My bank account details are. NOT FINE

Online Footprint

One of the reasons I recommend that students remain essentially anonymous, is that they are too young to establish a permanent 'Internet Footprint'.

Whatever is posted to the internet is saved, and could be copied or archived, and may remain searchable for years, or for decades. Future employers may

very well run a search by name, and may make judgments about the applicant based on what they find. What if they find a deep, reflective, brilliant, but rather depressive post by the student at the website?

Managing one's online footprint is an important skill. I would say in most situations, your students are too young to establish a footprint that could stay for a very long time. This is why we keep them anonymous.

Copyright

The final issue with online student publishing is copyright. Now, if the material is of little commercial worth, copyright is not a **big** issue. However, if you have the next Margaret Atwood or Charles Dickens in your class, you should consider that by publishing student work you may be giving something away for free that is of commercial worth. Once published to the Internet, you cannot reasonably expect to control the material. It can be copied and redistributed, and changed at will. Even if your students have exceptional talent, I tend to think it is better to publish, and give the students the experience of a worldwide audience, rather than play it safe, and miss out on this experience.

In any case, students should give permission for their work to be published. If you give them access to the website, they can publish their own work themselves. If you're posting the material, simply have them read and agree to something like this:

I agree that my work for English can be published anonymously at our class website. I've discussed with my teacher about the practical lack of control there is on the internet over copyright.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Their parents give permission via the permission slip.

Further Reading

Here are some links to web resources on internet safety and copyright:

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/management/governance/copyright/schools.htm> Victorian Copyright guidelines for schools

http://www.tki.org.nz/r/governance/curriculum/copyguide_e.php#two practical, concrete guidelines regarding online publishing and copyright, from New Zealand

<http://www.netalert.gov.au> has plenty of generic information and advice, and in particular have a guide for teachers:

http://www.netalert.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0019/1819/01427-A-Teachers-Guide-to-Internet-Safety.pdf

e. What to Publish!?

The great thing about this project is that it does not require you to redesign your units of work or teaching strategies. Rather, you're invigorating the student learning process by redirecting student output to a potentially worldwide audience.

Text Output:

Essays, analysis, chapter summaries, character profiles, topic summaries, personal reflections, summaries of class discussions, explanations, creative compositions (alternative endings, writing using character voice or the voice of a historical figure), poetry, recounts, scripts, documents of an alternative reality or fantasy world (e.g. a postcard in French, German, or Japanese, from another planet... or a script of a chat show on this alternative reality), documents of an alternative history (students could imagine Julius Caesar's speech on thwarting Brutus' assassination plot), study tips, position statements, factual lists, web research summaries, and so on.

In a later session we'll see how audio can be incorporated in the website very easily.

Audio Output:

Reflections, persuasive speeches, oral narrative or poetry, debates (you could stagger a debate over several days, with students recording their counter arguments each afternoon), descriptions, lecture-style analysis, musical recordings, student-teaching sessions (student explains a topic), live journalism (interviewing local community figures or experts), radio-show simulations, and so on.

Here are some more ideas for websites themes:

1. History students publish their opinions or findings on a period of history. If it is recent history, they could publish interviews with older family members.
2. English students .

Session #2 – ‘Structuring and Equipping your Website’

a. Logging into WordPress to Control your Website

To publish to the website, or change the layout of the website, you need to go to <http://wordpress.com> and log in.



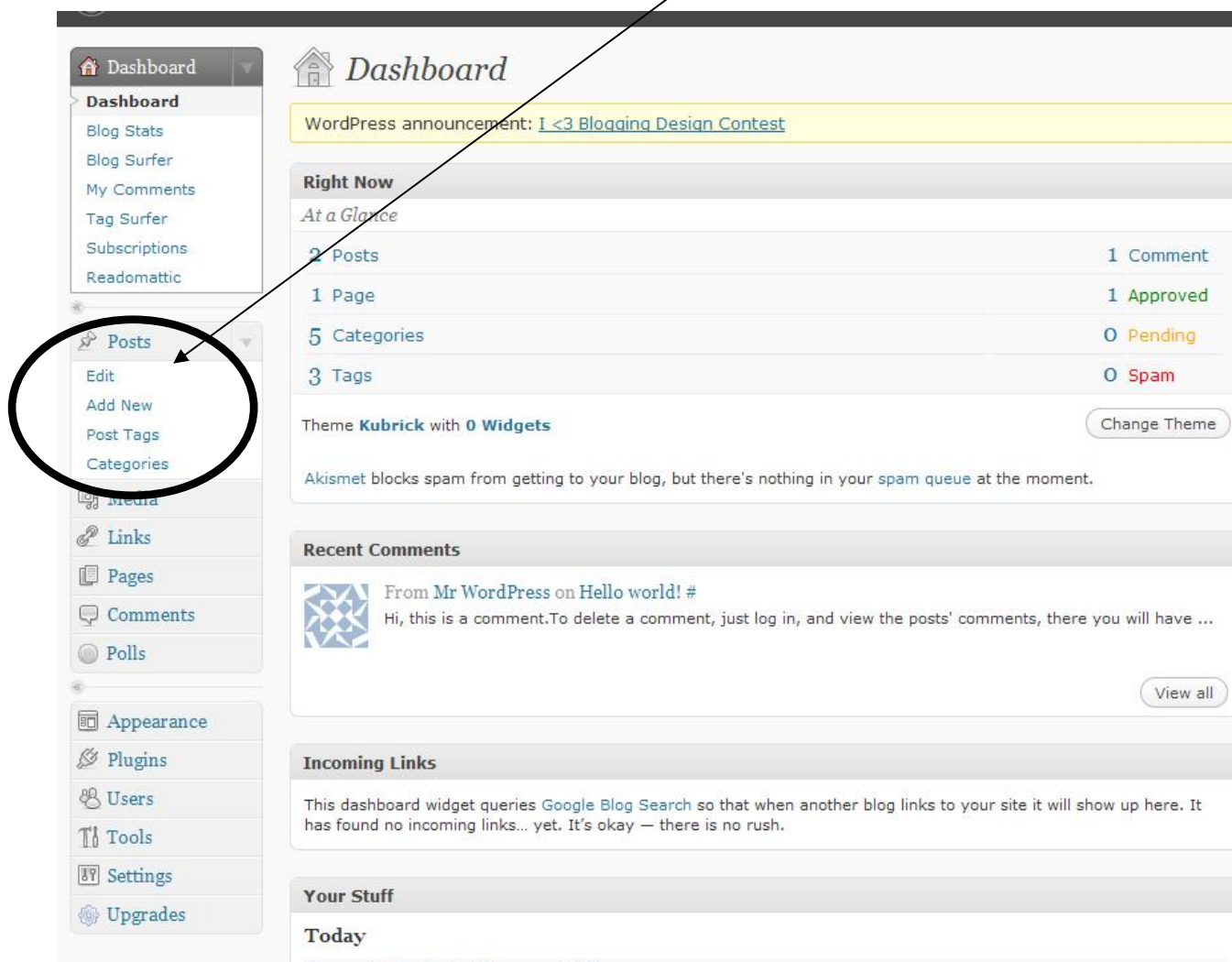
One person can have lots of different WordPress websites running, so when you log in, it shows you a list of them. We only have one. Click on it.

(It's easy to miss. Look on the left, under 'Welcome Back.'

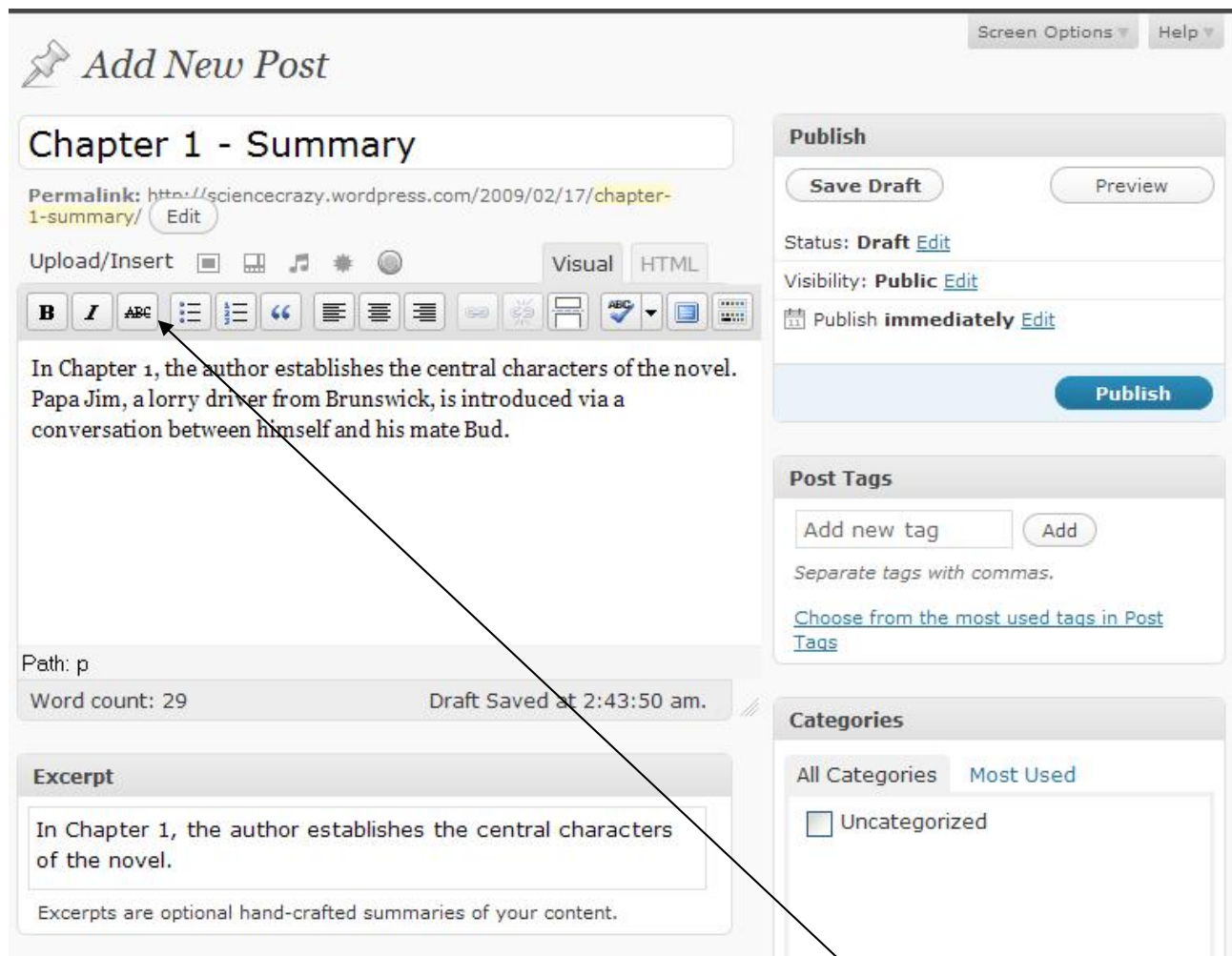
This takes you into your 'Dashboard' where you can publish new work to your website, or edit existed work, or comments.

b. Posting Material to your Website

To publish material to your website, you click on 'add new' under the heading 'posts'. A post is just a new piece of work. It will automatically appear at your website.



This will take you into a basic text editor that looks like this:



Just like I have here, you can fill in the blanks for the title of your post, then you fill in the main text of the post, and then you can include an excerpt if you want to.

Think of this page as a very weak version of a word processor. The buttons here allow you to change the format or colours of your work.

So, at a basic level, you can simply copy and paste student work into the main box and publish it.

However, we don't want to press 'publish' yet.

Creating and Assigning Categories

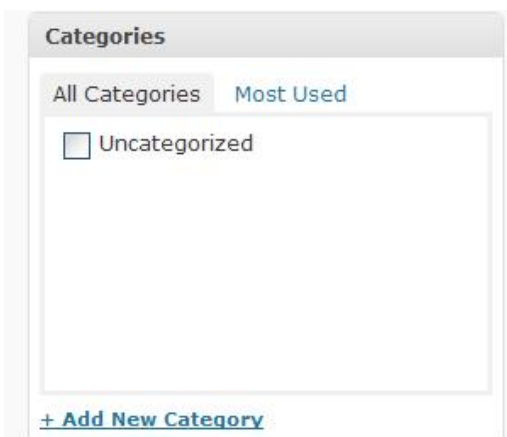
First, we want to create some 'categories' and assign our post a logical category. The website will automatically take our categories and create a table of contents out of them.

So if your website is a study guide, then you might create the category 'Chapter 1' and assign it to any material that is specifically about the first chapter of the book. Or, you might create the category 'Character Profiles', or 'Alternative Endings'.

Furthermore, you can create sub-categories, like subsections of a chapter. For example, you can create the overall category "Chapter Summaries" and then sub-categories "Chapter 1", "Chapter 2", "Chapter 3".

Let's try this now. You're still on the same screen where you type or paste in the material you want to publish.

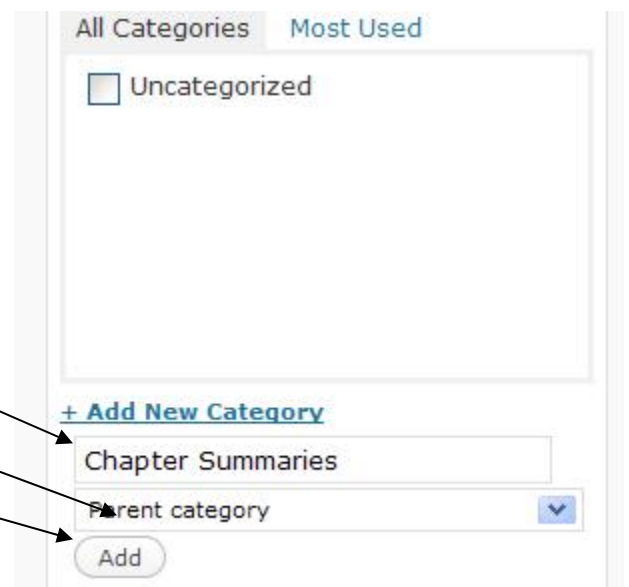
To create a category, look at the bottom right of the screen, and you'll see this.



At the moment, there are no categories.

Click on "Add New Category"

Now type an overall category name, and make sure this option says 'parent category' and click on 'Add'.



The screenshot shows a sidebar titled 'Categories' with two tabs: 'All Categories' and 'Most Used'. Under 'All Categories', there is a list with two items: 'Chapter Summaries' (checked with a green box) and 'Uncategorized' (unchecked). Below this list is a link '+ Add New Category'. Underneath the link is a text input field, a 'Parent category' dropdown menu, and an 'Add' button.

Ok, now your category 'Chapter Summaries' appears in your category list, and is automatically ticked to apply to the material you are posting right now.

Because you chose 'Parent Category', this category is recognized as an overall category, rather than a sub-category.

So, let's make some sub-categories while we're at it.

Type in the name of your sub-category here, and then select 'Chapter Summaries' from the drop-down list here.

Now, click on 'Add'.

(All of your parent categories will appear in this drop-down list. So to make a sub-category you simply select your parent category from the list when you create the category).

This screenshot shows the same 'Categories' sidebar, but now the text input field contains 'Chapter 1' and the 'Parent category' dropdown menu is set to 'Chapter Summaries'. The 'Add' button is still visible below the dropdown.

Categories

All Categories Most Used

- ☐ Chapter Summaries
 - ☐ Chapter 1
- ☐ Uncategorized
- ☐ Uncategorized

[+ Add New Category](#)

Chapter 2

Chapter Summaries

Add

Now your screen looks like this:

While we're at it, let's create other sub-categories at the same time.

Type the name of your other sub-category here.

Choose the parent category here.

Click Add.

As you build up a list of parent categories and sub categories, the list will look like this:

Categories

All Categories Most Used

- ☐ Uncategorized
- ☒ Chapter Summaries
 - ☒ Chapter 1
 - ☐ Chapter 2
 - ☐ Chapter 3

[+ Add New Category](#)

Now, put a tick in the boxes for any parent category, and any sub-categories you want to apply to this particular post.

You'll see later on that these categories will appear on your main website page, like a table of contents. I'll give you a sneak peak now of what it will look like:

Contents:

[A Propos de l'Auteur](#)
[Chapitre 1](#)
[Chapitre 11](#)
[Chapitre 12](#)
[Chapitre 19](#)
[Chapitre 20](#)
[Chapitre 21](#)
[Chapitre 22](#)
[Chapitre 4](#)
[Chapitre 5](#)
[Chapitre 9](#)
[Des Nouvelles Histoires](#)

These categories are in French, of course!

Adding Images

Before we publish our first post, let's add an image.



Add New Post

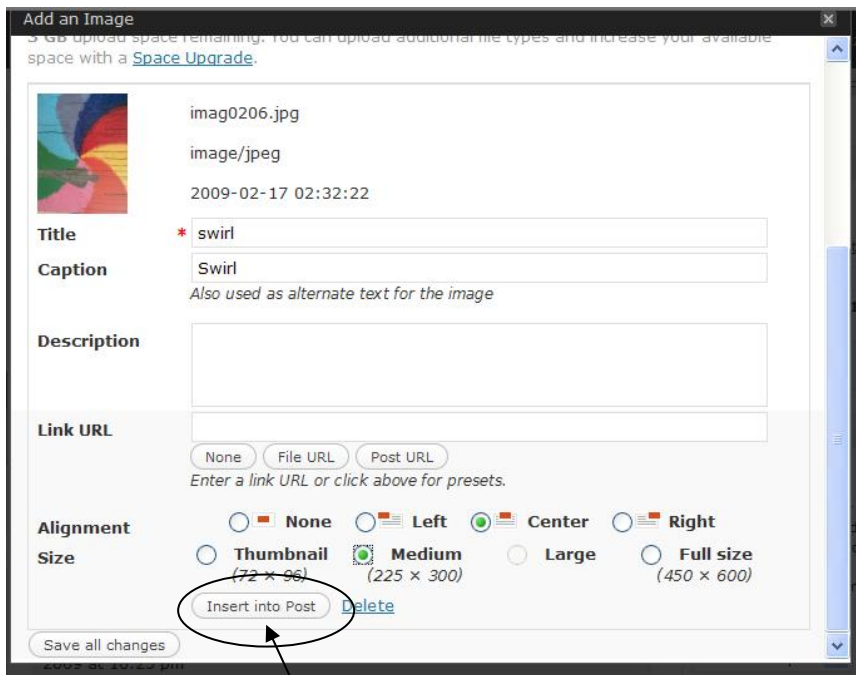
Chapter 1 - Summary

Permalink: <http://sciencecrazy.wordpress.com/2009/02/17/chapter-1-summary/> [Edit](#)

Upload/Insert       

Visual HTML

B *I* ABC                                             

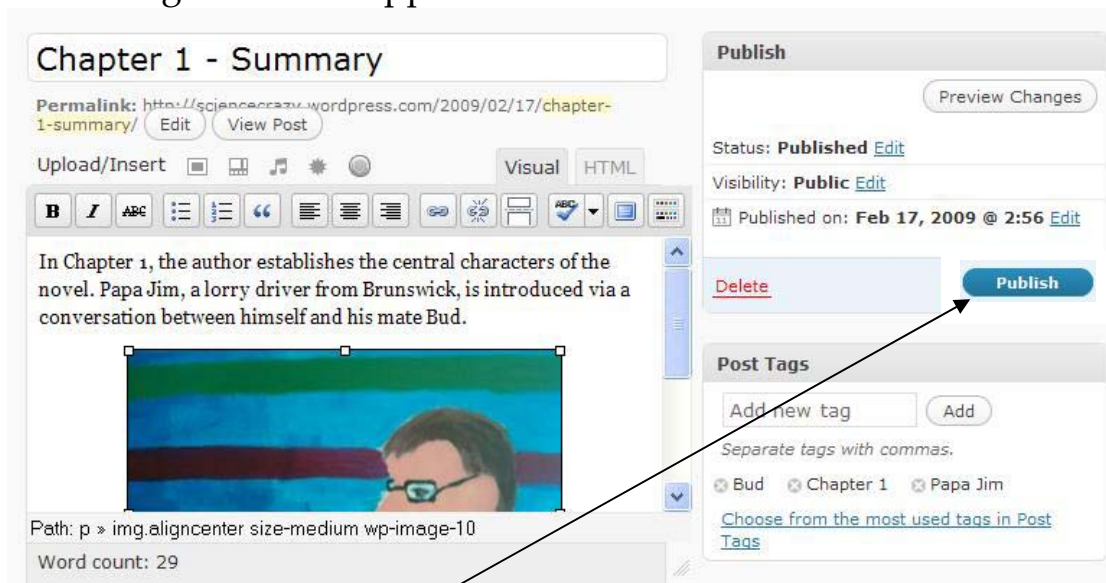


This screen has many options, but you really don't have to fill them in.

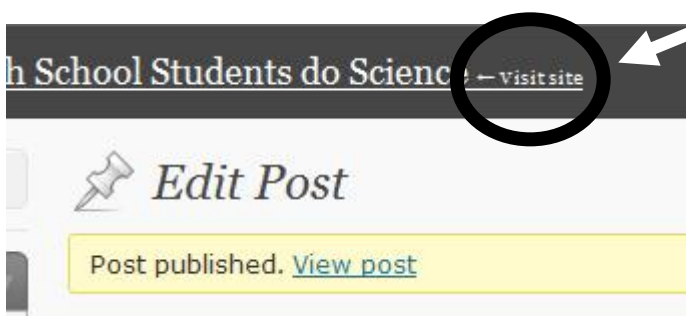
The main options of interest are whether you want the image to appear left, center, or right, and what size you want the image. Experiment with different settings.

Click 'Insert into Post'.

Your image will now appear:

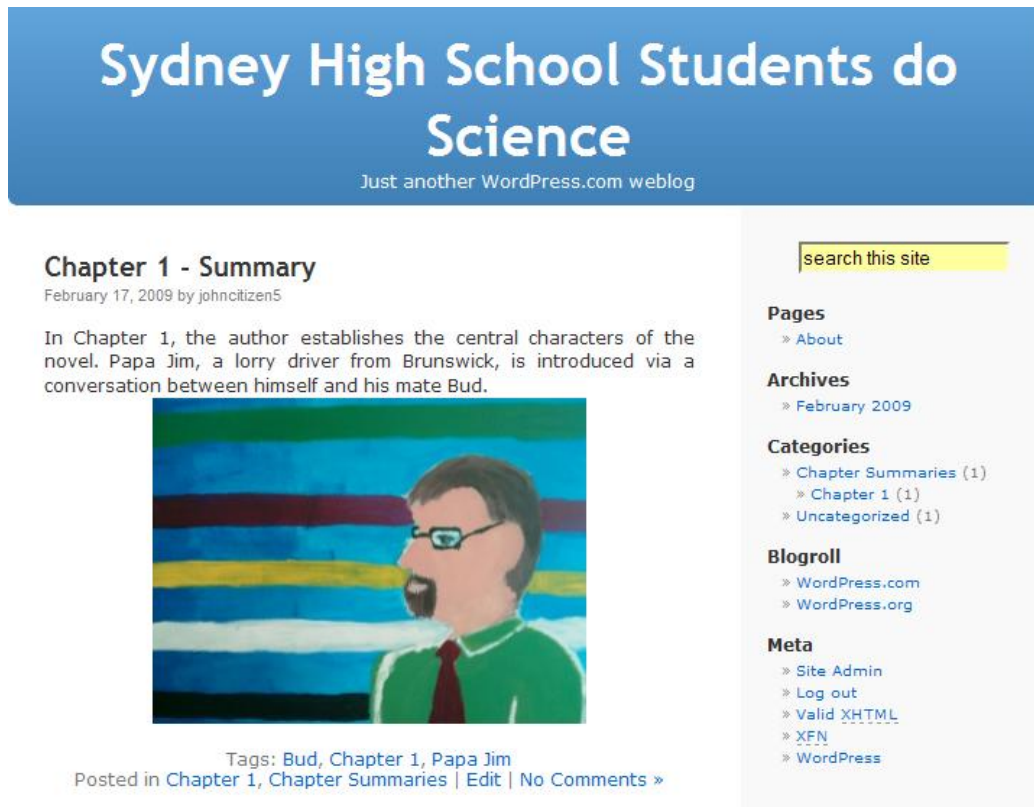


Finally, click 'Publish'.



You can click here to see your website with your first post.

This is what your site will look like.



Notice the 'Categories' list on the right hand side. This will function as a table of contents for visitors to the site.

You can add new material by repeating the process shown in the previous pages. Gradually, the 'Categories' section will get longer, and there will be more and more reason for people to visit your website.


b. Adding a Map Showing Visitors

Crucial to the purpose of establishing a class website is the motivation and perspective that comes to the students from realising they have an audience. From experience this takes a few months. However you can show your students other websites by students such as the ones featured at the beginning of this booklet, where 1,000s of visitors have accrued.

You should add your own map to your website right at the beginning, so it shows all your visitors.

First, go to the website <http://clustrmaps.wordpress.com>

You'll see this:

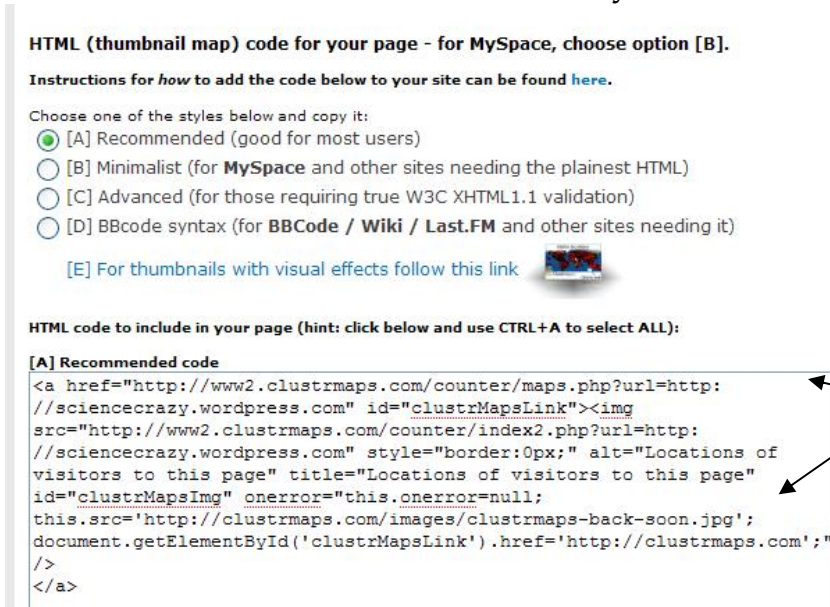
The image shows the ClustrMaps website. At the top, there's a blue header with the ClustrMaps logo and the tagline "Locate all site visitors... fast!". To the right, a yellow box says "Over 4 BILLION served!". Below the header is a navigation bar with links: Home, Products, Admin, Get one!, FAQs, Contact, Legal, and a language dropdown set to English. The main content area features a world map with numerous red circular markers indicating visitor locations. Below the map, there's a section titled "Locate all site visitors... fast! Free." with a "Create yours:" form. The form has two input fields: "URL:" with the example "http://sciencecrazy.wordc" and "(your site)", and "email:" with the example "youremailaddress" and "(to send password)". To the right of the form is a "Make my map" button and a link to "Clicking accepts Terms & Conditions". On the left side of the "Create yours:" section, there's a small thumbnail image labeled "Visitor locations".

Type the name of your website here:
<http://SOMETHING.wordpress.com>

Type your email address here.

And now click on 'Make my map'.

Now, don't let this next screen scare you:

The image shows the HTML code generated by ClustrMaps. It starts with a heading "HTML (thumbnail map) code for your page - for MySpace, choose option [B]." followed by instructions on how to add the code. There are five radio button options: [A] Recommended (good for most users), [B] Minimalist (for MySpace and other sites needing the plainest HTML), [C] Advanced (for those requiring true W3C XHTML1.1 validation), [D] BBcode syntax (for BBCode / Wiki / Last.FM and other sites needing it), and [E] For thumbnails with visual effects follow this link. Below the options is a section titled "HTML code to include in your page (hint: click below and use CTRL+A to select ALL):". Under this, there's a sub-section "[A] Recommended code" which contains a block of HTML code. The code is a single line that creates a link and an image. The link points to the ClustrMaps website, and the image shows the visitor locations for the specified URL. The code is as follows:

```
<a href="http://www2.clustrmaps.com/counter/maps.php?url=http://sciencecrazy.wordpress.com" id="clustrMapsLink"></a>
```

The website has created some 'html code' for you. You don't need to understand it, you just need to copy it into your website!

So select this text in the box down the bottom here.

Once you've selected it, it will look like this:

HIML code to include in your page (hint: click below and use CTRL+A to select ALL):

```
[A] Recommended code
<a href="http://www2.clustrmaps.com/counter/maps.php?url=http://sciencecrazy.wordpress.com" id="clustrMapsLink">
</a>
```

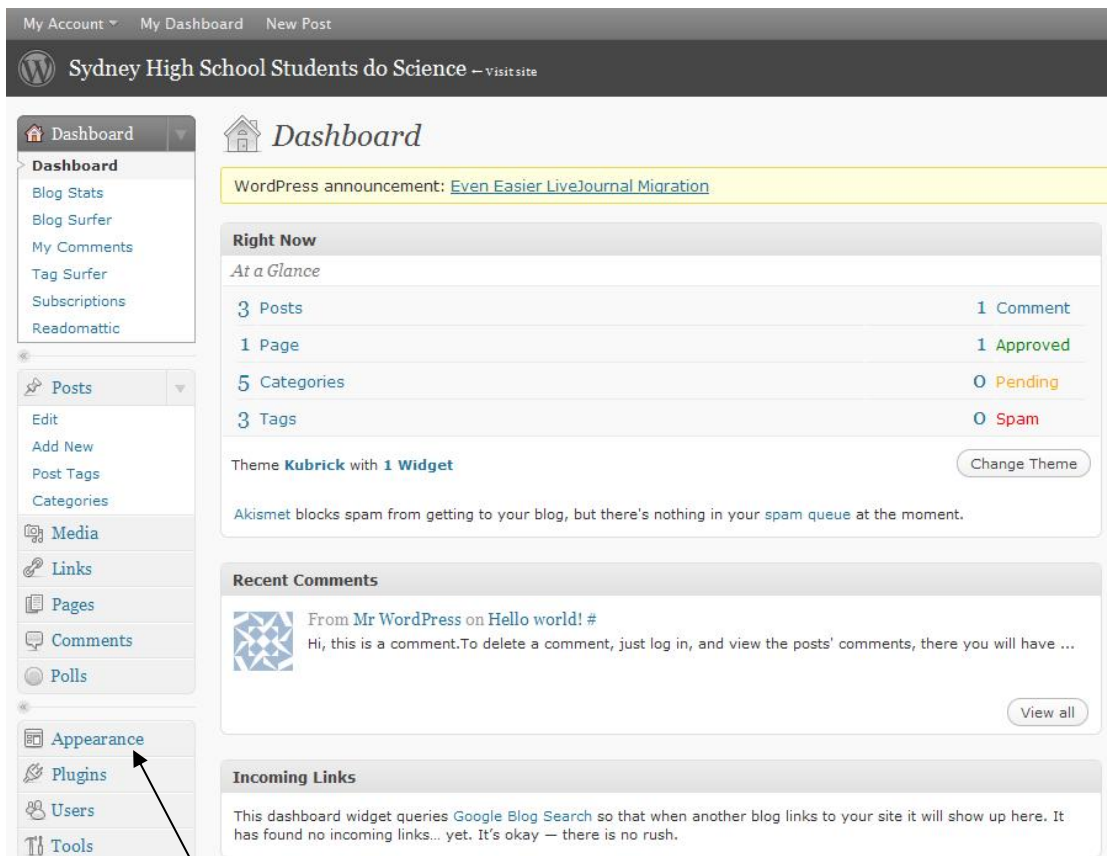
And now, click on 'copy' – you can do this by going to the 'Edit' menu of your web browser, and clicking 'copy'.



When you click 'Copy', it doesn't look like anything has happened, but it has.

Now then, open up another web browser window, and go to <http://wordpress.com>, and log in with your username and password if you need to, and click on your blog name at the top left.

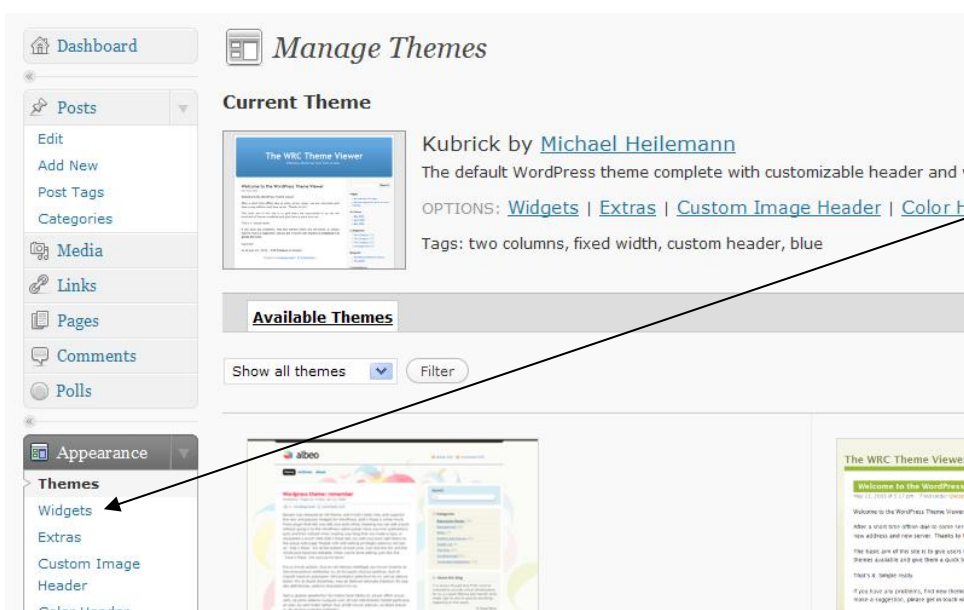
This brings you to your blog 'Dashboard', which looks like this:



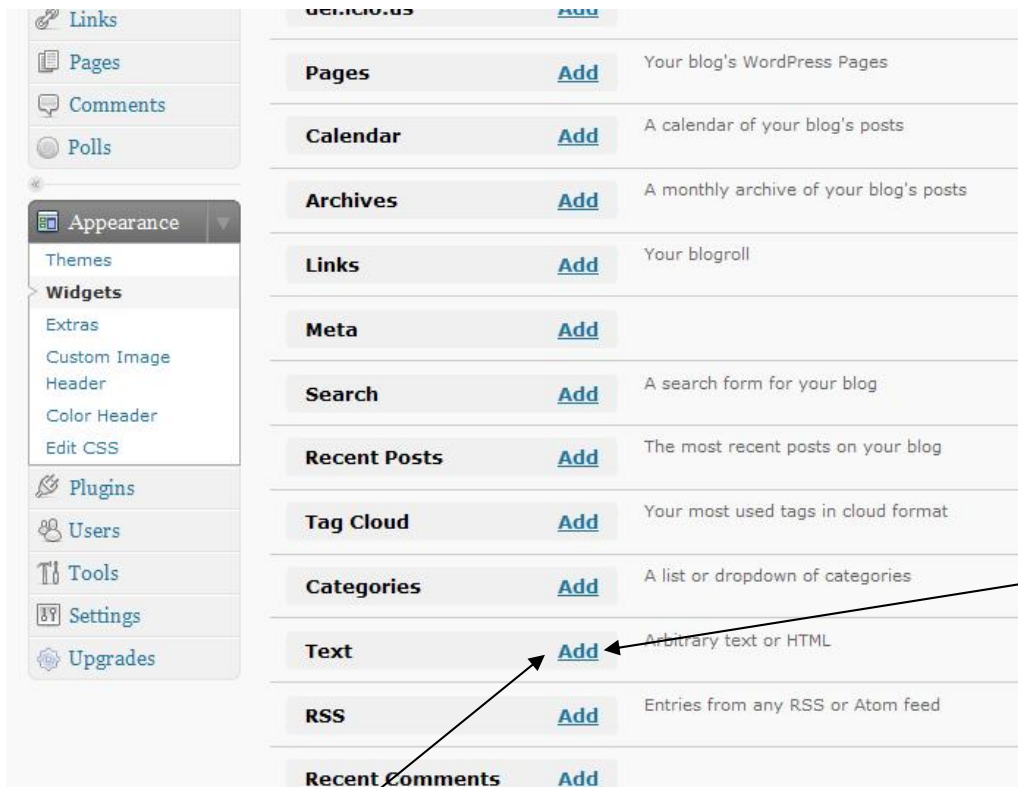
We want to add your visitor map to your website.

To do this, we're going to add what's called a 'Widget'. All this is, is a new box in your website, where you can put ANYTHING! The anything we're going to put in there is the map.

So, click here, on 'Appearance'.



And now click on 'Widgets'.



The next screen gives you lots and lots of extra boxes that you can add to your website.

We want a 'Text' widget. This is a blank widget that we can put the map in.

So click on 'Add'.

Now, you might not notice this, but when you click 'Add', this will appear on the right of your screen:



Click on 'Edit'

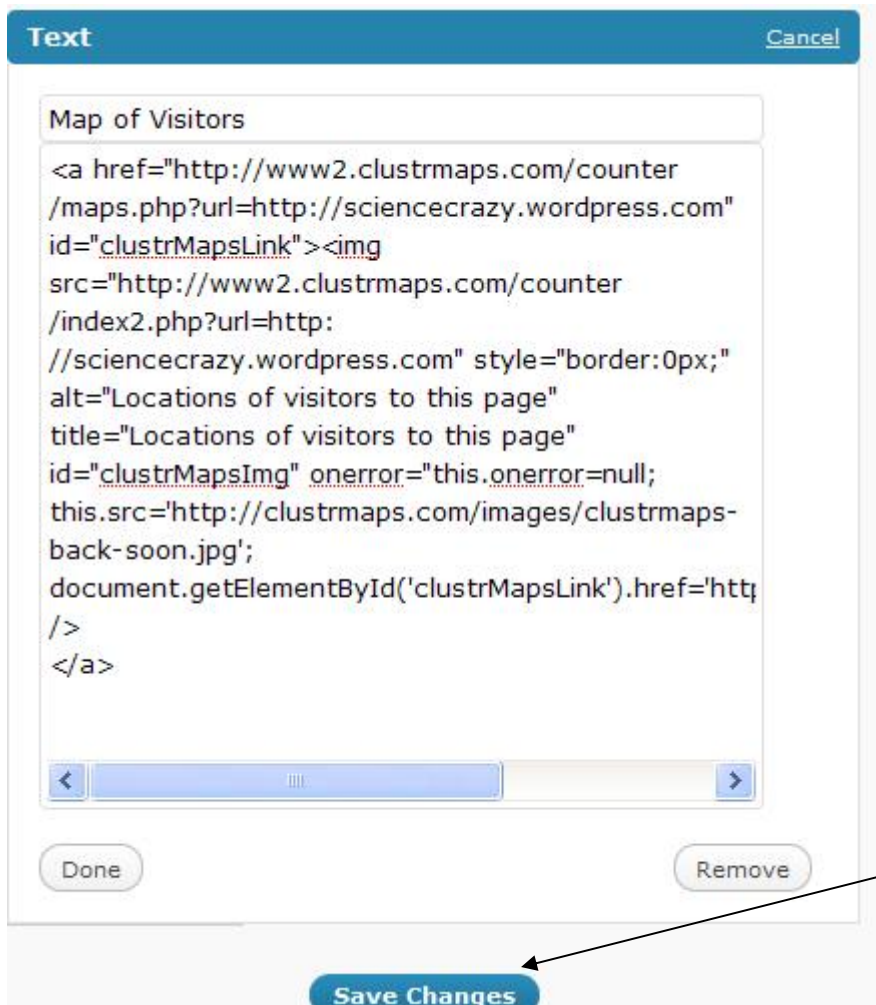
And here is your blank widget, ready for you to add the map code.



So, now, type in "Map of Visitors" in the title field.

In the main box, paste the text you copied from the <http://clustrmaps.com> website. (To do this from your browser, click on 'Edit' then 'Paste'). (If it doesn't work, go back to <http://clustrmaps.com> and try again!)

So, now you have that weird code pasted in like this:



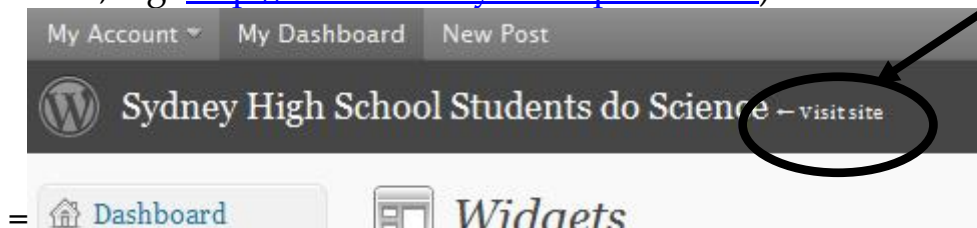
The screenshot shows a 'Text' widget editor in WordPress. The title field is set to 'Map of Visitors'. The main text area contains the following HTML code:

```
<a href="http://www2.clustrmaps.com/counter/
maps.php?url=http://sciencecrazy.wordpress.com"
id="clustrMapsLink">
</a>
```

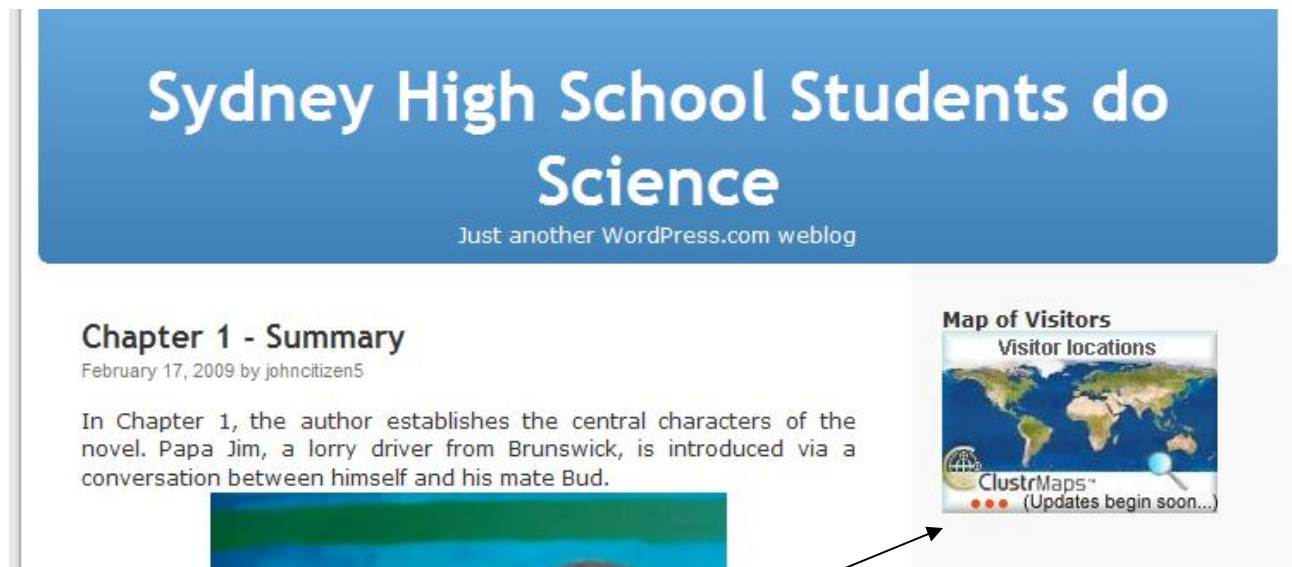
At the bottom of the editor are buttons for 'Done', 'Remove', and 'Save Changes'.

Ok, so just paste in the text, and click here.

I imagine you'll be keen to see your map on your website. So, click here to see your website (or, open up a new browser window and type your website name, e.g. <http://sciencecrazy.wordpress.com>):



Your website ought to look like this...



With the map now on the right.

As time goes on, red dots will appear showing where people are visiting from. Please let me know about your website at scollis@nbcs.nsw.edu.au, and I will promote it!

Session #3: Mashing together Other Websites, including Audio

Nowadays, you can 'mash up' multiple websites. We've already done this. We've taken the map from <http://clustrmaps.com> and put it into our WordPress website. You can embed other websites into your class website too.

We'll look at several ideas now. All these ideas involve audio. This raises a range of challenges. Do you provide an audio headset for every student in your class? If so, you need to purchase them and manage them. Experience has convinced me that this is well worth while, and fills a gap in our teaching of oral literacy.

a. www.voki.com – an audio talking head

Voki.com allows you to record some audio using a microphone. The website creates an animated cartoon character whose lips move in synch with the speech. Follow these instructions to put a voki speaking character on your website:

<http://theedublogger.edublogs.org/2008/02/24/adding-a-voki-speaking-avatar-to-your-blog-sidebar/>

b. www.voicethread.com – discussion around a stimulus

The idea here is the same – you copy and paste some code into your website from the VoiceThread site.

The VoiceThread website allows you to nominate a picture, or some music, or some text. This appears at the centre of the screen. People can add their own responses to this stimulus – such as a text comment or their own voice recording.

c. www.utterli.com

This astonishing website allows you to register phone numbers, so that you can call a local number in Australia, and the service will recognize who you are. You record a message, and the service will publish your recording on the Internet, minutes later. Furthermore you can instruct the utterli.com website to republish your recording at your wordpress.com website.

I have assembled complete instructions for doing this here:

<http://www.happysteve.com/2009/01/my-step-by-step-mobile-audio-blogging-for-high-school-classes.html>